

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 30, 2000

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-11)

to: Allyn Meuleman – KEWN-4  
Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Shoshone-Bannock Mitigation Acquisition (Rudeen Ranch Property)

**Project No:** 1995-057-00

**Budget No:** F3928

**Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis  
(See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):**

1.0 Resource Acquisition Techniques: 1.1 Transferred as Trust lands to Tribes  
2.0 Plant Propagation Techniques: 2.2 Seeding  
3.0 Habitat Creation and Conversion: no actions planned  
4.0 Water Development and Management Techniques: 4.3 Spring Development, 4.5 Guzzlers  
5.0 Water Distribution Techniques: 5.2 Culverts, 5.3 Drainage Ditches/Conveyance Channels  
6.0 Fire Management Techniques: 6.1 Prompt Fire Suppression and Natural Fire Management  
7.0 Vegetation Management: 7.1 Herbicides, 7.2 Mechanical Removal, 7.4 Hand Pulling, 7.5 Prescribed Burn  
8.0 Species Management Techniques: 8.2 Control of Predators and Nuisance Animals  
9.0 Multiple-Use Techniques: 9.1 Integration of Wildlife Habitat and Crop Production, 9.2 Provision of Educational and Recreational Opportunities, 9.3 Facility Development, 9.5 Forest Management  
10.0 Transportation/Access Techniques: 10.1 Land Use Restrictions, 10.4 Road Decommissioning.

**Location:** Power County, Idaho, approximately 7 miles southeast of American Falls

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Shoshone-Bannock Tribe (SBT).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The overall goal of this project is to acquire and maintain the Rudeen Ranch property for the benefit of wildlife under the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Agreement. The acquisition is tied to the Minidoka construction/inundation loss assessment and Palisades Dam. BPA and SBT are proposing to acquire and enhance a 2,450-acre parcel with sage steppe, coniferous woodland, and aspen grove habitats. The SBT would be transferring the title to Tribal Trust Land status. Habitat protection is the main goal; only minor development or active management would take place.

**Analysis:** Anders Mikkelsen of the SBT completed a compliance checklist for the property that meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.

An inquiry was made to the Idaho State Conservation Data Center to identify species listed as endangered, threatened, proposed and/or candidate species that may be present in the area of the proposal. The presence of wintering Bald eagles was identified. The transfer of ownership of the property would have no effect on this species. If future management plans involve work that may affect listed species, a biological assessment (BA) on the activities will be submitted to USFWS. SBT will not take any actions that would affect listed species prior to completing either formal or informal consultation with USFWS, as appropriate.

The Heritage Tribal Office of the SBT conducted a Class I site file and literature search and a site visit for historic and archaeological sites on the properties. Their report, dated August 7, 2000, is in the file. The report identified a number of cultural resources, and recommended preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). BPA and SBT have agreed that BPA will fund preparation of the CRMP in conjunction with the preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan. No ground-disturbing work or other activity that would disturb cultural resources will take place prior to preparation of the CRMP and approval by the Heritage Tribal Office, the State Historic Preservation Office, and BPA.

On February 8, 2000 Fred Walasavage of BPA completed a Phase I Site Assessment and concluded that the site did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or cleanup under the Comprehensive Recovery, Compensation and Liability Act.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Sections 11.3D.5 and 11.3D.8 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds; 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-2965) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

s/s Nancy H. Weintraub  
Nancy H. Weintraub  
Environmental Project Lead – KECN

CONCUR: s/s Thomas C. McKinney  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/30/00

Attachments:

- Compliance Checklist, Shoshone-Bannock Mitigation Acquisition